

JULY/AUGUST

2004



Trees on Maine Street Bulletin

IN THE WORKS



'Heritage' river birch (*Betula nigra* 'Heritage')

A North American native, 'Heritage' river birch can grow 50 to 80 feet tall but is often seen at 40 to 50 feet. It has a narrow, pyramidal to oval crown with many fine branches when young, spreading wider and becoming more oval with age with several branches eventually becoming dominant. It has scaly, beige or creamy white bark, which remains an attractive pinkish-white for a longer period of time than the species.

The leaves are generally shaped like a triangle. It is very well-suited for planting along stream banks and in other areas which are inundated with water for weeks at a time. River birch is seen in the wild almost exclusively along stream banks. 'Heritage' river birch tolerates low soil oxygen, periodic flooding, clay, and prefers moist soil. The tree requires an acid soil, otherwise it becomes chlorotic. 'Heritage' river birch is reportedly resistant to the bronze birch borer.

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION MAINE FOREST SERVICE

R. ALEC GIFFEN
DIRECTOR

FOREST POLICY AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
We help you make informed decisions about
Maine forests



MAINE FOREST SERVICE PROJECT CANOPY

There is a white pine tree in Morrill, ME that is over 19 feet in circumference, 125 feet tall, and has a canopy spanning 72 feet. Does this sound like a big tree? It should. In fact, according to American Forests, this tree is the largest of its kind in the country. American Forests compiles a list of the largest specimens of 826 native or naturalized tree species in the United States. American Forests has just released the 2004/2005 National Register of Big Trees, and Maine is proud to have two national champions - a white pine in Morrill, and a yellow birch in Deer Isle. To determine if a tree is a champion, American Forests gives each tree a score based on a formula that adds circumference in inches, height in feet, and ¼ of the crown spread. Maine's champion white pine and yellow birch have scores of 372 and 271, respectfully. Many states, including Maine, compile lists of state champions. Maine's Register of Big Trees has been in existence since the 1960s, and contains over 150 species of trees. The register is updated every two years; the next register will be printed in spring 2005. To learn more about the program or to view Maine's Register of Big Trees, please visit the Project Canopy website at www.projectcanopy.org or contact Michael DeBonis, Project Canopy Director, at 207-287-4987 or michael.debonis@maine.gov

PROJECT CANOPY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE WORKS

Project Canopy is working on the next round of community forestry assistance grants, which will become available this summer. Project Canopy provides grants to local governments, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations for developing and implementing community forestry projects and programs. Funding for the 2004 Project Canopy Assistance Program is provided by the USDA Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry Assistance Program. While grant awards are contingent on federal funding levels, Project Canopy anticipates that \$100,000 will be available to support community forestry assistance grants this year. Once grants become available, Project Canopy will send out a special grant notice to communities and also make announcements through the media. Grant information and all grant documentation will also be available on the Project Canopy website www.projectcanopy.org. For more information on the Project Canopy Assistance Program, please call Michael DeBonis at 207-287-4987.

HABITAT STEWARDS™ PROGRAM OFFERED FALL 2004

This fall, University of Maine Cooperative Extension in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation® will offer a Habitat Stewards™ training. This volunteer education program will provide participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to help people in their community create and enhance wildlife habitat in backyards, schoolyards, business properties, and other private and public areas. In exchange for the 30-hour training program and continuing educational opportunities, Stewards commit 50 hours during the year following the training to share information and knowledge with others in their community. Topics covered will include wildlife survival needs, habitat components, landscaping for wildlife, native plants, and more. No prior experience is necessary. Training dates are alternate Saturdays, beginning September 11 and ending November 20, in the Lisbon Falls Extension office, or nearby area. Space is limited. Program fee is \$50 to cover basic costs.

For an application and information, contact Nancy Coverstone, Extension Educator, University of Maine Cooperative Extension in Androscoggin-Sagadahoc Counties, 24 Main Street, Lisbon Falls, ME 04252, phone 353-5550 or 1-800-287-1458.

SUDDEN OAK DEATH: A THREAT TO MAINE'S FORESTS?

Concerned scientists are saying sudden oak death, a fungal disease that already has killed thousands of oak trees in California, could spread to Eastern states including Maine and devastate existing forests.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced last month a plan to devote \$15.5 million to battling sudden oak death, which potentially could infect Maine's commercially valuable northern red oak. Maine foresters and horticulturists have begun conducting forest surveys and screening plants in local nurseries as part of a nationwide effort to determine how far the disease has spread.

"Since a lot of nursery stock is grown in Oregon and California and shipped all over the United States, we have to be concerned with material coming in that is a possible host," said Clark Granger of the Maine Forest Service's forest health and monitoring division.

Scientists don't yet fully understand how sudden oak death spreads, but it seems to have "a broad appetite" for woody shrubs, which serve as hosts for the disease. Sudden oak death doesn't kill the shrubs but infects a few of the leaves and produces a large number of spores. Those spores get onto the oak tree and make their way under the bark, where the disease cuts off the tree's food supply.

Maine is participating in the national survey of nurseries. Ann Gibbs, the State Horticulturist, said samples are being taken from host plants that are sold or grown at 20 nurseries in 11 Maine counties. The samples are undergoing initial screening at the University of Maine, and any that test positive will be sent on to Cornell University and Agriculture Department labs in Maryland for further analysis.

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COMMUNITY FORESTRY RESOURCE LIBRARY

The USFS Mid-Atlantic Region Urban and Community Forestry Resource Library Database provides a fairly comprehensive listing of books, articles, fact sheets, brochures, slide programs, videos, and other publications produced by state partners, research, universities, non-profit organizations, cooperative extension, and the Forest Service. The library can be accessed by visiting: <http://na.fs.fed.us/wv/urban/>



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Project Canopy
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IN THE WORKS (continued)

“Wakening from the
dreaming forest there, the
hazel-sprig sang under my
tongue, its drifting fragrance
climbed up through my
conscious mind as if
suddenly the roots I had left
behind cried out to me, the
land I had lost with my
childhood – and I stopped,
wounded by the wandering
scent.”
- Pablo Neruda

FERTILIZER & MULCH

LINKING UP

UP AND COMING

TREESEARCH

Treesearch is a new database that allows access to Forest Service research publications online. With Treesearch, customers can locate and download agency-authored or sponsored publications, including those in journals, books, and conference proceedings. The research results behind these publications have been peer reviewed to ensure the highest quality science. The publications in Treesearch can be accessed from www.treesearch.fs.fed.us, as well as the R&D Website, the websites of the six Research Stations, the Forest Products Laboratory, and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry. The database supports searches by author, keyword, originating organization, or date. Users can view abstracts and then select the full text of the publication, including tables, figures, and citations.

CONSERVATION EFFORTS LOWER DRINKING WATER TREATMENT COSTS

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), in cooperation with American Water and the San Antonio Water System, has published an article called *Protecting the Source: Land Conservation as a Drinking Water Protection Tool*. The article outlines TPL’s findings on the link between forest cover and treatment costs. This article presents the results of a recent study on the relationship between forests and clean water, the resulting impact on treatment costs, and how water suppliers and municipalities can build effective partnerships to conserve forested land in order to protect their source water. To view the article, please visit <http://www.lgean.org/documents/tplforest.doc>

GUIDE TO URBAN TREES AND SHRUBS NOW ONLINE

"Urban Trees and Shrubs: A multimedia guide to the selection of trees and shrubs and their care in urban areas," put together by the Chicago Botanic Garden with a grant from the US Forest Service Midwest Center, is now available at:
<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/uf/uts/index.htm>

CONIFERS OF MAINE NOW ONLINE

Fay Hyland’s long out of print book is now available online from University of Maine Cooperative Extension. This book provides illustrated material, with distribution and occurrence information on many native and commonly planted conifers in Maine. The book is available at:
<http://www.umaine.edu/umext/forestry/Forestry/coniferbooklet.pdf>

July

17 3rd Annual MAA Climbing Jamboree. Portland's Deering Oaks Park. Contact Mike Fowler at 207-329-8008 for more information.
22 Alex Shigo – Autopsy and Dissection Lab, Portsmouth, NH. Contact Jeff Ott at 800-847-2498 for more information. Workshops will also be held on 10/21/04 and 12/9/04.

August

7-11 ISA 80th Annual Conference & Trade Show. David Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA. For registration information visit www.isa-arbor.com

September

24-26 Common Ground Fair, Unity, ME. Visit www.mofga.org for more information.

October

3-6 Society of Municipal Arborists Fall Conference, Denver, CO. Visit www.urban-forestry.com for more information.
3-10 Fryeburg Fair, Fryeburg. FMI visit www.fryeburgfair.com
24-26 New England Chapter of the ISA Conference, Manchester, NH. Visit www.newenglandisa.com for more information.
28-30 Tree Care Industry Expo, Detroit, MI. Visit www.natlarb.com or call 516-625-1958 for more information.

November

5 Where the Roots Hit the Curb Symposium. James Urban, noted landscape architect and urban tree advocate will present the keynote address and highlights of his work to make better places for trees in cities. Philadelphia, Center City, Pennsylvania. For more information contact Mary Anne Hunter (215)732-2313, Email: mahunter@comcast.net
Link: <http://www.cityparksphila.org>
19 Grow Smart Summit, Augusta Civic Center. Visit www.growsmartmaine.org for more information.

If you would like to put your community’s activity on the calendar, please let one of the editors know by the 15th of each month.

PROJECT CANOPY
assists communities and nonprofit,
grassroots organizations in building self-
sustaining urban and community forestry
programs with strong local support.

Editors: **Jan Ames**
Community Forestry Specialist
Pine Tree State Arboretum
Phone: (207) 623-2371
Fax: (207) 621-8245
e-mail: canopyinfo@adelphia.net

Mike DeBonis
Maine Forest Service
Phone in-state: 800-367-0223
Out-of-state: (207) 287-4987
Fax: (207) 287-8422
e-mail: michael.debonis@maine.gov

On the Web at:
www.projectcanopy.org